CLAIM LISTING

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (Original) An isolated nucleic acid having the sequence of SEQ ID NO:1.

2. (Withdrawn) An expression product encoded by the isolated nucleic acid of claim 1, wherein the expression product has the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2.

3. (Withdrawn) An expression product according to claim 2, wherein the expression product is used as a screening tool for diagnosing Hepatocellular carcinomas.

4. (Withdrawn) An expression product according to claim 2, wherein the expression product is adapted for monitoring treatment or progression of Hepatocellular carcinomas.

5. (Withdrawn) An antibody having the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:4, wherein said antibody binds specifically to a retinoic acid regulated nuclear matrix protein having the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2.

6. (Withdrawn) An antibody having the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:5, wherein said antibody binds specifically to a retinoic acid regulated nuclear matrix protein having the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2.

7. (Original) A recombinant DNA construct comprising operatively linked in sequence in the 5' to 3' direction:

a) a promoter region that directs the transcription of a gene;

b) a DNA coding sequence encoding an RNA sequence encoding an expression product having the sequence of SEQ ID NO:2; and

c) a 3' non-translated region.

8. (Original) A recombinant DNA construct according to claim 7, wherein the DNA coding sequence has the sequence of SEQ ID NO:1.

9. (Original) A cell transformed or transfected with the recombinant DNA construct of claim 7.

10. (Withdrawn) A method for screening and determining the prognosis of a patient having Hepatocellular cancer, said method comprising the steps of:

(a) obtaining biological samples from said patient;

(b) isolating proteins from said biological samples;

(c) contacting said proteins with an antibody that binds specifically to a retinoic acid regulated nuclear matrix protein having the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2, the amino acid sequence being the expression product of claim 2; and

(d) detecting the presence of an expression product of SEQ ID NO:1 in claim 1 having the amino acid sequence of said SEQ ID NO:2 in claim 2.

11. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 10, wherein said biological samples comprise liver tissues.

12. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 10, wherein said antibody is a polypeptide.